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CLASSIFICATION SECURITY INFORMATION

COUNTRY Austria REPORT NO. [redacted] 25X1

TOPIC Soviet Troops in St. Poelten and Camp Spratzern [redacted] 25X1

25X1

25X1

DATE PREPARED 28 August 1952

REFERENCES

PAGES 1 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

25X1

[redacted]

1. On 21 July 1952, two four-wheel armored scout cars [redacted] 25X1
25X1 [redacted] were seen in St. Poelten. They came from the south and proceeded in the direction of the St. Poelten railroad station. [redacted] all occupied 25X1
by personnel wearing red-bordered black epaulets, also proceeded toward the railroad station.1

2. On 21 July 1952, about 100 soldiers commanded by a captain wearing tank insignia marched out of Camp Spratzern south of St. Poelten, and proceeded toward St. Poelten. About half of the soldiers wore red-bordered black epaulets and the others wore black-bordered
25X1 red epaulets. [redacted] occupied by about 10 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets, left the camp in the direction of St. Poelten. More than 10 officers including some who wore tank insignia took notes in the southeast section of the camp. Six groups each of between 10 and 12 soldiers practiced signaling with a red flag at the drill grounds south of the camp which showed fresh imprints of track laying vehicles. About 30 soldiers practiced with rifles and submachine guns at the firing range west of the camp. At dusk, a column of tanks moved to the parking lot at the 25X1
southwest section of the camp, coming from the direction of St. Poelten. A four-wheel armored scout car led a column of 20 tanks all having six bogie wheels and a long gun barrel with a muzzle brake. [redacted]
25X1 [redacted] Each tank mounted 2 or 3 soldiers. The rear was brought up by a four-wheel armored scout car. Source believed that the tanks he saw were JS-3 tanks. 2

25X1 1 [redacted]

25X1 2 [redacted] Comment. Heavy tanks have also repeatedly been observed with rifle divisions in Eastern Germany. There is reason to believe that either one or two companies of the SP gun regiments have recently been equipped with heavy tanks. The 15th G's SP Gun Regt of the 95th Gds Mtz Rifle Div is carried in Camp Spratzern south of St. Poelten.

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